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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/615,876 03/14/96 OYA

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EXAMINER

LM02/0913

MORGAN & FINNEGAN  
345 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK NY 10154

SRIVASTAVA, V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2711

28

DATE MAILED:

09/13/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**08/615,876**

Applicant(s)  
**Takashi Oya et al**

Examiner  
**Vivek Srivastava**

Group Art Unit  
**2711**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 22, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 3-10, 16, 18, 20-23, and 25-58 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 22, 23, 41, 42, 57, and 58 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 3, 5, 7-10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25-27, 29, 31-40, 43, and 45-56 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 4, 6, 28, 30, and 44 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 25

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 18, 20, 21, 26, 37 - 40, 53 - 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Griesshaber et al.

Considering claims 18, 38, and 54 Griesshaber discloses a computer readable program code which causes a camera-status display means to display the status of connection of the camera apparatus and the network (fig 5, cameras 1 - 8 are connected to the network).

Considering claims 20, 37, and 53 Griesshaber discloses a camera control system comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code containing executable instructions causing a computer to obtain the status of cameras means (col 2 lines 3 - 41, col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50) camera status is determined by obtaining means), displaying camera status (fig 5, col 7 lines 13 - 61), selecting a camera (fig 5, camera can be selected),

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displaying an image (fig 5, col 2 lines 38 - 41), and wherein a camera-status display means displays parameters of the camera apparatuses (fig 5).

Considering claims 21, 39, and 55 Griesshaber discloses a computer usable program code wherein camera-status display means further displays starting and ending of operation of the camera apparatuses connected to the network (col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50 and col 7 lines 13 - 61, indicates progress of auto setup usage).

Considering claims 26, 40, and 56 Griesshaber discloses a computer usable program code wherein obtaining means periodically obtains information concerning statuses of cameras whose conditions have changed (col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50).

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 18, 20, 26, 37, 38, 40, 53, 54 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hogan et al (5,657,246-cited by applicant) .

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Considering claims 18, 38, and 54 Hogan discloses a computer readable program code which causes a camera-status display means to display the status of connection of the camera apparatus and the network (fig 2a and fig 5a).

Considering claims 20, 37, and 53 Hogan a camera control system comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code containing executable instructions causing a computer to obtain the status of cameras means (fig 2a and fig 5a, col 4 line 28 - col 6 line 50, camera status is determined by obtaining means), displaying camera status (fig 2a and 5a), selecting a camera (fig 2a and fig 5a, camera can be selected), displaying an image (fig 2a and fig 5a), and wherein a camera-status display means displays parameters of the camera apparatuses (fig 2a and 5a).

Considering claims 26, 40, and 56 Hogan discloses a computer usable program code wherein obtaining means periodically obtains information concerning statuses of cameras whose conditions have changed (fig 2a and fig 5a, col 4 line 28 - col 6 line 50).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 5, 7 - 10, 16, 25, 27, 29, 31 - 36, 43, 45, 47 - 52 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesshaber et al.

Considering claims 3, 27, and 43 Griesshaber discloses a camera control system comprising an computer readable medium having computer usable program code containing instructions for the obtaining camera status (col 2 lines 3 - 41, col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50, camera status is determined by obtaining means), camera status display means (fig 5, col 7 lines 13 - 61), camera selecting (fig 5, camera can be selected), image displaying (fig 5, col 2 lines 38 - 41), and wherein camera-status displaying displays connection and disconnection of the cameras to the network (fig 5 col 7 lines 13 - 61, camera connected is the camera image displayed), start and end of use (col 6 lines 32 - 50 and col 7 lines 13 - 61, indicates progress of auto setup usage), Griesshaber fails to disclose available or unavailable status of use of connected camera.

Considering claims 5, 29 and 45 Griesshaber fails to disclose a computer usable program code which causes a computer to perform the step of displaying a pan angle by a direction of a camera control symbol.

The Examiner Takes Official Notice it would have been well known in the art to display a pan angle to provide a viewer with important information with respect to what angle the camera is covering. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to modify Griesshaber to include the claimed pan angle to provide a user with vital camera information.

Griesshaber discloses in fig 6, cameras 2, 3, and 6 have been properly setup and camera 4 can be used although an error has been detected, and cameras 1, 5, 7, and 8 have not been setup. The Examiner Takes Official Notice it would have been well known in the art to display a message to a user that a camera cannot be used or is not available if not been properly setup to

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prevent an error or poor recording. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Griesshaber to include the claimed available or unavailable status to prevent an error or poor quality recording and to indicate to a user the camera is not responding.

Considering claims 7, 31, and 47 see claim 3.

Considering claims 8, 32, and 48 Griesshaber discloses the claimed computer code for camera control, management, and camera control for notifying management means of status of cameras (col 3 line 54 - col 6 line 50).

Considering claims 9, 33, and 49 Griesshaber discloses the claimed wherein the camera control means notifies the statuses of the cameras in accordance with instructions from the management means (col 3 line 54 - col 6 line 50).

Considering claims 10, 34, and 50 Griesshaber discloses the claimed wherein camera-status display means displays the statuses of the cameras in accordance with information outputted by management means (col 3 line 54 - col 6 line 50).

Considering claims 16, 35, and 51 Griesshaber discloses a computer readable usable program code for displaying camera symbols representing the plurality of cameras over a layout and displaying one or more statuses of predetermined features of the cameras with the camera symbols (fig 5, camera symbols are met by the numbers displayed and displaying the status is met by displaying the status letters).

Considering claims 25, 36, and 52 Griesshaber discloses the claimed wherein obtaining



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means periodically obtains information concerning statuses of cameras whose conditions have changed (col 5 lines 35 - 45).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. The indicated allowability of claims 3, 5, 7 - 10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25 - 27, 29, 31 - 40, 43, and 45 - 56 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Griesshaber et al.

Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

8. Claims 22, 23, 41, 42, 57 and 58 are allowed.

9. Claims 4, 6, 28, 30, 44, 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1) Lang - Remote Video Viewing And Recording System For Remotely Occurring Events

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- 2) Washing - Personal-Computer-Based Video Production System
- 3) Diner - Adjustable Control Station With Movable Monitors And Cameras For Viewing  
Systems In Robotics And Teleoperations
- 4) Thompson - Synchronization Of Vertical Phase Of The Video Signals In A Video  
System
- 5) Cortjens et al. - Method For Automatically Adjusting The Pan And Tilt Of A Video  
Conferencing System Camera
- 6) Tsujita - Automatic bowling scoring system
- 7) Katz - Videophone system for scrutiny monitoring with computer control
- 8) Thompson - Open loop camera control

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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**or faxed to:**

(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

(703) 305 - 5399 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivek Srivastava whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 4038. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andy Faile, can be reached at (703) 305 - 4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 3900.

VS

VS

9/7/00

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Nathan Flynn, the Primary Examiner.

Nathan Flynn  
Nathan Flynn  
- Primary Examiner